

34. NEW RECORD OF *NERVILIA ARAGOANA* IN RAJASTHAN

During a field survey on August 24, 1993, in Sitamata Sanctuary in Chittorgarh district of Rajasthan, I came across many plants of *Nervilia aragoana* between *Bhagya Baori* and Sitamata Temple under huge crowns of *Madhuca indica*, *Mangifera indica*, and *Buchnanania lanzan*. *Nervilia aragoana* is a terrestrial orchid with a single, simple, orbicular leaf, raised on a long stalk. Its leaf has a cordate base, ribbed lamina and wavy margins. This plant grows in fairly good numbers in the plain areas along the nullahs.

No earlier literature on the flora of Rajasthan (Mehta 1979; Sharma and Tiagi 1979;

Shetty and Pandey 1983; Shetty and Singh 1987, 1991, 1993; Singh 1983) has recorded *Nervilia aragoana* from the State. Thus, the present record of the species is the first from Sitamata Sanctuary as well as Rajasthan State.

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35. REDISCOVERY OF *HEMIORCHIS PANTLINGI* (ZINGIBERACEAE) FROM SIKKIM HIMALAYA

(With one text-figure)

During a recent floristic survey of South Sikkim, I came across an interesting species of *Hemiorchis* Kunz. On examination, the plant was identified as *Hemiorchis pantlingi* King. The plant was rediscovered after a gap of about one hundred years. The voucher specimens are deposited in the herbarium of the Botanical Survey of India, Gangtok, Sikkim.

The description of the species, along with a diagram (Fig. 1), is given below:

Hemiorchis pantlingi King: In: Mitra J. N., Flowering Plants of India, Vol. 1 Monocotyledons: 249-250. 1958.

7.5-16 cm tall, erect, succulent, puberulous,

perennial herb, conspicuously green, leaves absent. Rhizome stout, much branched, creeping. Stem 4-5 cm long, erect, covered with 3-4, 2-3 cm long, oblong-ovate, creamish-purple, minutely puberulous, stem-clasping, sheathing leaves. Inflorescence 3.5-9 cm long, terete, minutely puberulous; Peduncle 0.5-1.5 cm long; Raceme 3-7.5 cm long, with 2-5 sessile flowers. Floral bracts small, membranous and deciduous. Calyx (3) tubular, 1-1.5 cm long, puberulous outside, free arm shallow, triangular in shape. Corolla 1.5-1.6 cm long, tubular below, limbs divided above into 3 dissimilar lobes; dorsal lobe 1-1.8 x 0.4-0.6 cm, elliptic-oblong, distinctly 3-nerved,

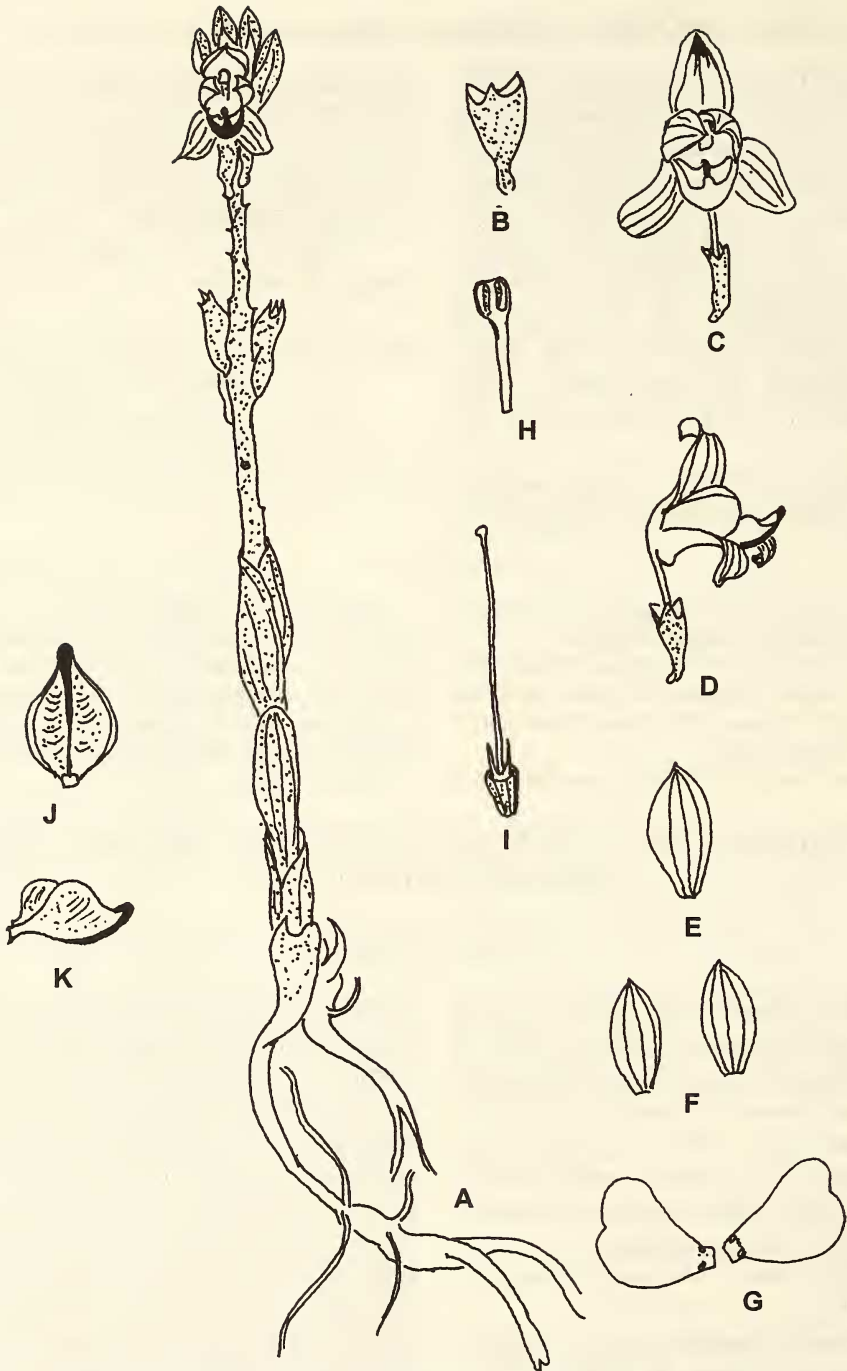


Fig. 1: *Hemiorchis pantlingi* King, A. Whole plant; B. Tubular calyx; C. Single flower; D. Lateral view of a single flower; E. Dorsal petals; F. Lateral petals; G. Lateral petaloid staminodes; H. Stamen; I. Style, stigma, ovary with stylodes; J. Plan view of lip; K. Side view of lip

mucronate tip fleshy, externally puberulous, translucent-white suffused with purple; lateral lobes 0.9-1.1 x 0.3-0.5 cm, elliptic-oblong, distinctly 3-nerved, spreading. Lateral staminodes petaloid 0.8-0.9 x 0.6-0.65 cm, obovate, obtuse, slightly and unequally bilobed, basal end with 2 reddish-purple secreting glands, base united to form a short spur. Lip *c.* 1.2 x 1.2 cm in diameter. When flattened, cupular, fleshy, orange-yellow with reddish-purple dots and streaks, the median vein thickened from base, and forms a blunt projection in front, deep orange in colour. Stamen 6-7 mm long, curved, anthers at right angles to it; Anther cell *c.* 4 x 2 cm long, oblong, contiguous, connective narrow, not produced. Style *c.* 2.1 cm long, slender, translucent-white, glabrous, passing through the furrow of anther or connective of anther. Stigma small, sub-globose. Ovary *c.* 3.5 mm long, ribbed, minutely hairy, with 2 stylodes *c.* 3.8 mm long crowning the ovary, 1-celled with many ovules, with parietal placentation.

Flowering: April

Altitudinal Zones: 300-500 m.

Distributional Status: Rare

Remarks: It grows on the burnt Sal forest floor.

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36. *ARISAEMA ECHINATUM* (WALL.) SCHOTT — AN ADDITION TO THE ARACEAE OF PENINSULAR INDIA

(With one text-figure)

While revising the genus *Arisaema* Mart for a study on the Araceae of India, it was found that the material of an *Arisaema* species at Madras Herbarium (MH), collected in the Silent Valley on the Western Ghats, Kerala, had been wrongly determined as *A. erubescens* (Wall.) Schott. Critical examination revealed that it is *A. echinatum* (Wall.) Schott. The identity was later confirmed with the help of the protologue and type. *Arisaema echinatum* is known to occur in Manipur, Meghalaya and Sikkim in India, and also in Bhutan, China and Nepal. It is recorded here from Kerala for peninsular India. A detailed description is provided.

Arisaema echinatum (Wall.) Schott in Schott & Endl., Melet. Bot. 1: 17. 1832; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 6: 506. 1893; Engl., Pflanzenr.

(IV. 23 F) 73: 181. 1920; D. Chatterjee in Bull. Bot. Soc. Bengal 8: 124. 1955; Hara, Fl. E. Himal. 2: 152, t. 20, f. c-d, 351, f. 55m. 1971; Pradhan, Himal. Cobra-lilies: 90. 1990. *Arum echinatum* Wall., Pl. Asiat. Rar. 2: 30, t. 136. 1831; Wall., Numer. List No.: 8916. 1848; Engl. in DC., Monogr. Phan. 2: 555. 1879. - Type: Nepal, Sheopore, 1821, Wall., Numer. List No. 8916 (CAL, K, MH microfiche!).

Dioecious, rarely monoecious, cormous herb; corm 2-5 cm across, depressed-subglobose. Cataphylls 1-2, 2.5-22 cm long, obtuse, membranous. Leaf solitary; petiole 12.5-46 cm long, cylindrical, pale green, streaked with reddish-brown, glaucous; leaflets 6-11, radiate, subsessile, 4.5-30 x 0.7-4 cm, oblanceolate to oblong-lanceolate, attenuate or subacute at the base,